

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL: Tues. 10th December 2024, 7.06pm Firle Village Hall.

Members of the Public in Attendance: None. **Questions RECEIVED from the Public:** None.

Members in Attendance: Cllr Hill (Chair), Cllr Barr (Vice-Chair), Cllr Lance, Cllr Symes.

Members not in Attendance: Cllr Bolger.

Others Present: Lorna Thwaites, Clerk and RFO.

To RECEIVE questions from the Public: None.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Bolger.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF AN INTERESTS WAS RECEIVED:** Agenda item 4.4 Village Hall hamper donation – Cllr Barr is the Chair of FVHPFC; **NO REQUESTS FOR A DISPENSATION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA** were received.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the ordinary meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 8th October 2024 were RESOLVED to be a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE & ADMIN:**
 - 4.1. Payments made in November were RATIFIED, payments to be made in December were AUTHORISED and the bank reconciliation was RECEIVED and SIGNED.
 - 4.2. The letter from Lloyds Bank regarding changes to be introduced to the bank account was RECEIVED: Lloyds Bank will charge a monthly account maintenance fee of £4.25 from 14th January; the Clerk was asked to investigate other accounts suitable for parish councils.
 - 4.3. The NALC pay award 2024-2025 was RECEIVED: the Council AGREED to implement with pay back dated to April '24.
 - 4.4. A donation to the Village Hall Christmas hamper for £100 was RESOLVED.
5. **2025-2026 BUDGET AND PRECEPT**
 - 5.1. The 2025-2026 budget was DISCUSSED and AGREED.
 - 5.2. The precept for 2025-2026 was RESOLVED at £12,075.
6. **REPORT(S):** Any written reports to be taken as read.
 - 6.1. Reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes were RECEIVED and NOTED.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
 - 7.1. Consultation – Enabling Remote attendance and proxy voting at council meetings – ESALC: Cllrs AGREED to undertake the consultation individually before the deadline of 19 Dec.
 - 7.2. Loss of Lewes Bus Station and impact on your parishioners – Cllr West: RESOLVED to support; the Clerk was asked to email Firle's support and request confirmation of receipt.
 - 7.3. Speed limit letter to MP – Westmeston Parish Council (via ESALC): RESOLVED to support and to thank Westmeston Parish Council for lobbying on this matter.
 - 7.4. Transport Forum 18 November – ESALC: NOTED; the Clerk was asked to email Cllrs Denis and Agace for their views.
 - 7.5. Electoral Register – revised 01 Dec 2024 - Annual Revised Register of Electors: NOTED.
 - 7.6. Results of Sewerage Survey – CPRE Sussex – survey results on agenda information: NOTED.
 - 7.7. Funding for a.gov domain: The Council AGREED to move to a .gov domain via ParishCouncilwebsites and to request the funding available; the Council agreed to retain their current email addresses.
8. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - 8.1. Actions AGREED regarding the siting of waste bins for collection in The Street: The Council NOTED problems with the collection of recycling bins which are not always collected if not left on the road; if left on the roads they cause problems due to the narrowness of the road; the Council AGREED to monitor and will take further action if needed.
 - 8.2. The Council did not agree to propose a volunteer to be recognised for their contribution by ESCC.
 - 8.3. The Council AGREED to request a date for a SLR meeting (May onwards) if current issues with ESH are not resolved.
 - 8.4. An update on the parking restriction signs for the wall of The Cottage was RECEIVED: the sign is now on the wall and Cllrs Barr and Symes were thanked for their work.
 - 8.5. An update on the request to clear the ditch alongside the church spinney wall of saplings and undergrowth was RECEIVED: The ditch has been cleared and a drain was found at the end; the PCC will clear it again as and when required; thanks were expressed to Charlie Bridge and the Clerk was asked to email him with thanks.
 - 8.6. An update further to the request to owners/tenants of properties along The Street and The Dock to cut back vegetation overhanging and blocking the public footpath was RECEIVED: Many areas are now cleared but there is still some work needed down the far end of The Street.
 - 8.7. An update on the St Peter's Church curtilage visit was RECEIVED: Cllr Symes attended the meeting on behalf of the parish council; the Estate's tree health employee advised that the roots of the lime trees are parked on by people

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

parking on the verge; there is no alternative parking place for certain vehicles and people with accessible requirements so it is unlikely that any action will be taken to prevent people parking there.

- 8.8. The process for the inspections of trees for tree works applications was AGREED: Cllr Symes will be the tree representative for the parish council and will visit trees where necessary.
- 8.9. A policy to report anti-social behaviour of motorcyclists along The Old Coach Road BOAT was AGREED: Cllr Barr reported that some motorcyclists are going too fast along the Coach Road and pose a danger to other users; the Council AGREED to put an article in the parish magazine advising people how to report; the clerk will keep a log of any behaviour emailed to her.
- 8.10. Potholes and drainage issues were brought to the Council's attention by Cllr Lance: Cllr Lance AGREED to report a blocked drain and the new potholes that are appearing along with erosion on the side of the road on Firle Bostal; Cllr Lance will also request leaf sweeping along The Street; the Council discussed persistent dog fouling on the school playing fields and the lane behind; the Council AGREED to put an article in the parish magazine.

9. HIGHWAYS:

- 9.1. An update on the work done to waterproof the Crossways bus shelter was RECEIVED: The contractor is still waiting for a dry period.
- 9.2. Responses re sewage leaking onto Wick Street were RECEIVED: Southern Water believe that the main issue is that the WPS gets overwhelmed and causes flooding in the area and that all the surface water in the catchment goes into this foul sewer which they think is under the control of the Local Council; ESH have advised they will carry out a site investigation.
- 9.3. An update on the re-painting of the zig-zag markings outside of Firle Primary School (RML1863) was RECEIVED: these works have not been done but the Council NOTED that the area of road is currently under leaves, water and mud.
- 9.4. The response of National Highways regarding the A27 road closures was NOTED: Usual resident and stakeholder notifications were not sent out due to the short notice obtaining the necessary road space for the closures; their apologies were received.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS/TREE WORKS: To RATIFY or AGREE comments for any applications received:

- 10.1.1. **SDNP/24/03760/TCA** Proposal: Holm oak (T1) - Fell to ground level Location: Preston House , Wick Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6LG. To RATIFY the comments of Firle Parish Council: To remain NEUTRAL with the following comment: An alternative tree should be planted as soon as possible after felling of T1. RATIFIED.
- 10.1.2. **SDNP/24/04381/TCA** Proposal: T1 Cedar: Fell to stump, due to concerns over wind firmness, if Cypress hedge is removed. T2 Cedar: Fell to stump, due to concerns over wind firmness, if Cypress hedge is removed. T3 Ash: Fell to stump. Remove to replace with new native hedgerow. T4 Cypress: x48no. forming lapsed hedgerow. Fell to stump. Remove to replace with new native hedgerow. T5 Malus: Fell & remove stump, to extend driveway. Replace with suitable fruit tree. T6 Malus: Fell & remove stump, to install new pathway. Replace with suitable fruit tree. T7 Malus: Fell & remove stump, to install new pathway. Replace with suitable fruit tree. T8 Malus: Fell & remove stump, to install new pathway. Replace with suitable fruit tree. T9 Ash: Fell to stump. Remove to replace with new native hedgerow. T10 Cypress: Fell & remove stump, to create new vegetable plot. Location: Trosley Lodge , The Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6LQ: To RATIFY the comments - The Council AGREED to remain Neutral with the following comments: Firle Parish Council requests that the new native hedgerow and the 4 replacement fruit trees are planted as soon as possible after felling of the ten trees. RATIFIED. Email from the tree owner RECEIVED and NOTED. Clerk to asked to thank him for his update.
- 10.1.3. **SDNP/24/04664/TCA** Proposal: T1 - Ash - Fell to base due to advanced disease progression Location: Old Vicarage, The Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6NR (comments by 13 December) The Council AGREED to remain NEUTRAL.
- 10.1.4. **SDNP/24/04671/TCA** Proposal: T1. Bay. Ornamental planting to front of property that has become oversized for location and proximity to dwelling. Heavy shade cast & roots lifting garden path. Remove and replace with something more appropriate. Location: Little Talland, The Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6NT (comments by 13 December). The Council AGREED to remain NEUTRAL with the comment that they are keen to see the tree replaced.
- 10.1.5. **SDNP/24/04663/TCA** Proposal: T1. Ash: Fell to Base: Severe canopy decline due to Ash Dieback T2-T4. Sycamore: Standing dead trees to be removed Location: Street Record, The Dock, Firle, East Sussex, (comments by 13 December). Cllr Hill declared an interest; All trees to be felled will be replaced where there is sufficient space. The Council AGREED to remain NEUTRAL.

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

11. PROJECTS:

11.1. School Footpath

- 11.1.1. An update on the DINPP request was RECEIVED and the access requirements for the footpath were discussed: LDC have responded advising planning permission is required for the permissive path; the Council NOTED that there is a steep bank to exit the proposed route for the path and there would need to be discussions with Firle Estate to enable access/exit; accessibility under the Equalities Act was also discussed; the Council AGREED to DEFER the decision to progress the path further to the next meeting.

11.2. Assets of Community Value

- 11.2.1. An update on the nomination of Firle Playing Fields Area as an ACV was RECEIVED: Cllr Lance is completing the application and needs to include details of clubs and groups who use the facility.

12. **ITEMS AGREED FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE:** Anti-social behaviour - dog Fouling and motorcycles using the Old Coach Road BOAT; the Clerk was asked to request that the rural crime team number is added to the magazine.
13. **AGENDA ITEMS AGREED FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL:** To enquire about pupil numbers at Firle Primary School.
14. **THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL was RECEIVED:** Tuesday 14th January, 7pm Firle Village Hall.
15. **THE MEETING CLOSED** at 21.17.